

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 26 and 27 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 15 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of canceled claims 26 and 27. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Address Change

Applicant has requested on four separate occasions that all further communications from the Patent Office be forwarded to Oliff & Berridge, PLC, in accordance with the notice regarding Power of Attorney which was mailed on March 1, 2002. These requests were included in communications to the Patent Office on November 12, 2002, May 12, 2003, April 30, 2004, and November 1, 2004. As the outstanding Office Action was again mailed to the incorrect address, Applicant now requests for the fifth time that the address change be noted and that all further communications be sent to Oliff & Berridge, PLC.

II. Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 1-14, 17-25 and 27. All pending claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 15, 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,337,530 to Nakamura et al. As claim 26 is canceled, the rejection of that claim is moot. The rejection of claims 15 and 16 is traversed.

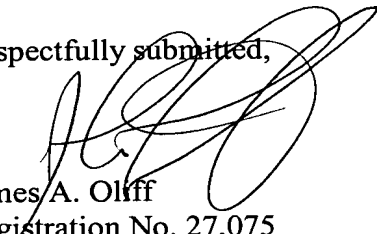
Claim 15 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowed claim 27 as well as interceding claim 26. Therefore, claim 15 and its dependent claim 16 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15, 16 and 26 is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/ldg

Date: March 22, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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